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Newsletter of the Hispanic National Bar Association

Spring, 1993

Hispanic National Bar Association Leads Nationwide Efforts to Secure Hispanic American Supreme Court Justice

The names of the seven best qualified Hispanic American potential nominees for the United States Supreme Court seat to be vacated upon Justice Byron White's retirement this summer were announced on April 1, 1993, by the Hispanic National Bar Association in twelve cities throughout the nation.

The "Magnificent Seven", as they have been called, are:

1. JOSEPH F. BACA
JUSTICE
NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT
2. FORTUNATO P. BENAVIDES
FORMER JUDGE
TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS
3. JOSE A. CABRANES
CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT
4. VILMA S. MARTINEZ
PARTNER
MUNGER, TOLLES & OLSON, CALIFORNIA
5. DANIEL C. MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS
6. CRUZ REYNOSO
PROFESSOR OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT
LOS ANGELES SCHOOL OF LAW
7. RICARDO M. URBINA
JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Addressing the national media at the Washington D.C. press conference, HNBA President Carlos G. Ortiz emphasized that "There are 25 million Hispanic Americans who are without a voice at the highest level of our legal system. Despite the availability of highly-qualified candidates, there has never been a Hispanic American on the Supreme Court."

Announcements endorsing the seven endorsees were made jointly at press conferences staged concurrently by the HNBA and by the state and local Hispanic bar associations that participated in identifying and evaluating potential nominees.



From left to right.-Robert Anchondo, President, Texas Mexican American Bar Assn.; Fernando Carranza, President, Latin American Bar Assn. of Illinois; Mary Hernandez, HNBA 1993 Convention Chair (CA); Robert Hernandez, President Massachusetts Assn. of Hispanic Attorneys; Aurora Ares, President National Hispanic Women's Alliance (FL); Enrique Ramirez, President, San Francisco La Raza Lawyer's Assn.; Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, HNBA Mid-Pacific Regional President (CA); Carlos Ortiz, President, HNBA; Bernardo Garcia, HNBA Newsletter Editor (AZ); Christopher Miranda, HNBA Judiciary Committee Chair (CO); Mark Gallegos, Broward County Hispanic Bar/HNBA Past President (FL); Adelfa Callejo, HNBA Southcentral Regional President (TX); Richard Gonzales, HNBA Southwest Regional President (CO); Martha Romero, President, Los Angeles Mexican American Bar Assn. (CA); Jeniffer Rivera, HNBA Secretary (CO); Arthur Garcia, HNBA Northwest Regional President (AZ).

The concurrent press conferences were held in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Boston, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Miami, Florida; Newark, New Jersey; New York, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Phoenix, Arizona; San Francisco, California; and in Washington, D.C.

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deepest gratitude to the following
corporations and firms for their generous support:

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Trump Castle Hotel & Casino



President's Message

THE CASE FOR A HISPANIC AMERICAN SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

By: Carlos G. Ortiz
President, HNBA

No one has stated the matter with greater simplicity or strength than the distinguished Dean of the Yale Law School, Guido Calabresi: In choosing a new Justice for the Supreme Court, the President should think in terms of "somebody who is extraordinarily able" and at the same time (consistent with the President's campaign promise to make the federal judiciary "look like America"), he should consider factors that come under the rubric of "diversity".¹ Calabresi and others have also noted that the Court needs a Justice who can build coalitions and who is as intellectually sophisticated as Justice Antonin Scalia.

Hispanic Americans could not agree more. We share fully the national commitment to excellence on the high court. We agree that any appointment to the Court must first and foremost be based on merit. Indeed, we believe that merit is a *sine qua non* for serious consideration for appointment to the Court. Hispanic Americans share that interest of their fellow citizens in a Supreme Court that evokes the admiration and respect of all our people. We do not endorse Hispanic Americans who are not fully the equal of other top-flight prospects. Hispanic Americans want a Supreme Court nominee who is eminently well-qualified. However, we also believe what our nation's history amply con-

firms: that an appointment to the Supreme Court is a political act, in which the President properly takes into consideration a wide variety of factors in addition to merit, including geography, political skills, political compatibility, personal experience and character, age, religion, gender, race and ethnicity. And we reject the pernicious notion that an affirmative consideration of a candidate's ethnic background and community ties would constitute a deviation from a standard of merit—as though Hispanic American leading lawyers and judges are, by definition, something less than meritorious.

The appointment of a meritorious Hispanic-American to the Supreme Court will have great and obvious symbolic and political significance for the 25 million Americans who today constitute the second largest, and the largest-growing minority group in our country. In the tradition that brought to the Court Louis D. Brandeis, William J. Brennan, Jr., Arthur J. Goldberg, Thurgood Marshall, Sandra Day O'Connor and Antonin Scalia (among others), Hispanic Americans today ask our new President to seize this historic opportunity to extend to them this important recognition of their place in the American system. Each and every one of these Justices was chosen not only because of his or her personal and professional merit, but also because the appointment recognized a significant American constituency that had been underrepresented on the Court. In urging President Clinton to appoint the first Hispanic American to the Court, the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) asks for Hispanic Americans nothing more, and nothing less, than the recognition accorded to other groups through much of our nation's modern history. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus fully agrees, as do many other Americans.

Hispanic Americans do not ask that President Clinton forsake merit in any way. Indeed, we too, insist that he place merit at the front and center of his consideration of candidates for this position. But we ask that he also seriously consider the additional advantage to all Americans of appointing a highly qualified Hispanic American whose

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HNBA IMPROVES INFRASTRUCTURE TO BETTER SERVE MEMBERS

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NEEDED NOW

By DAN GUADALUPE
Membership Committee Chairman

HNBA President Carlos Ortiz promised that his administration would swiftly revamp the infrastructure of the HNBA to serve its members better and more effectively. It is done.

The HNBA, with its recently opened office, full-time staff, state of the art computer, mailing house, membership invoicing system and national electronic bulletin board system, is determined to expand its membership base. This is being accomplished through a massive mailing to every corner of the nation. This effort is intended to attract to the ranks of the HNBA more of the 20,000 Hispanic attorneys, judges, law students and law professors in the United States.

In a historic endeavor, the HNBA now is offering significant membership benefits. Benefits include everything from AVIS rental car discounts to applications for an HNBA credit card. The informative membership application is a self-fold form with business reply mail on the back so that its return to the HNBA is free of charge--a first in HNBA membership processing.

Some of the benefits that are being offered in the package include:

- * HNBA credit card issued through Maryland Bank, N.A. (MBNA)
- * Special AVIS HNBA rental discounts
- * Special HNBA discounts in alpha-numeric pagers with Metromedia
- * Complimentary subscription to Hispanic Business magazine
- * HNBA NOTICIAS-a quarterly newsletter and much more

- * Access to the HNBA's electronic mail network and bulletin board for information, news, special computer software for lawyers, classifieds and want ads
- * Coming soon: discounts in malpractice, life and disability insurance with three major carriers

The package also describes in colorful detail; **Who are we? Mission of the HNBA; HNBA Programs and Services; Significant Milestones of the HNBA; and Benefits of Membership.**

The HNBA has also entered into an agreement with Harris Publishing for the purpose of publishing a national directory of Hispanic attorneys that will be ready in 1994 and will be distributed to the public and private sectors. The publishing process will also result in the comprehensive updating of the HNBA mailing database.

Our members deserve an HNBA that operates as a finely tuned organization with the goal of providing the best membership benefits and services. As Membership Chairman, I am proud of our achievement of having turned the HNBA towards the twenty-first century and developed a permanent and efficient membership services department. To ensure the success of our office and membership services, however, it is critically important that you pay your membership dues and join now. **Remember that to be eligible to vote in the annual elections on September, 25, 1993 you must pay your dues by July 15, 1993.** If you are interested in receiving our attractive package, please call our Executive Assistant, Andrea Rodriguez at 1-516-424-8142 or write to:

HNBA
33 Walt Whitman Road,
Suite 310,
P.O. Box 744, Melville, NY 11747.

HNBA EMBARKS ON FUNDRAISING PLAN TO BETTER SERVE MEMBERS

ALBERTO CABALLERO, ESQ. CPA
Treasurer, HNBA

With the opening of our Melville, New York, Administrative offices, both members and prospective members will have an opportunity to contact the HNBA or the HNBF with respect to dues or any other financial matters. Additional information on this office is included on page four of this issue of "NOTICIAS".

We have embarked on a Fund Raising Campaign which includes amongst its goals, the raising of approximately \$200,000 from the nine regions for the HNBF. We additionally wish to raise another \$50,000-\$75,000 in dues, contributions and 1993 Convention profit share for the HNBA. It is imperative that each region commence their effort along these guidelines. Targeted Goals have been given to the Presidents of each of the nine regions.

An important complement to this effort is the creation of an HNBA Advisory Council whose membership will include prestigious leaders of our business and community sectors. Each regional President has been asked to identify candidates to be invited to participate in the affairs of the Council. It is expected that the Council will energize the HNBA/HNBF fund raising efforts which are directed by the Fund Raising committee.

Your Board of Governors has approved the structuring of this effort along the aforementioned lines. Your individual efforts in this important area are indeed welcomed. The most significant ultimate effect of this effort is the awarding of scholarships to qualified candidates and an educational program aimed at the citizenry at large.



Officers at the Inauguration of the HNBA National Office in Melville, N.Y.
From left to right: Alberto Caballero, Virginia Class-Matthews, Carlos G. Ortiz,
Andrea Rodriguez and Wilfredo Caraballo.

UNITY!



By Carlos J. Reyes
Southeast Regional President

The Board of Governors of the Hispanic National Bar Association ("HNBA") met in Miami on January 15 and 16 of this year. It was another example of the HNBA reaching out to a large Hispanic legal community. Specifically, it was an effort by the HNBA to strengthen its ties with the Florida Hispanic legal community. The January HNBA Board meeting marked the first time since our annual convention was held in Miami in 1987, that there had been a gathering of this organization's leadership in South Florida.

On Friday evening, January 15th, after our initial two-hour Board meeting, the Board met with Tony Marin, President of the Cuban American Bar Association, Alphonso Oviedo Reyes, President of the Latin American Bar Association (both Miami based organizations), Marina Garcia Wood, Past President of the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association (from the Ft. Lauderdale area), and Tony Ramos, Past President of the Palm Beach Hispanic Bar Association (the West Palm Beach area). These leaders were given the opportunity to speak to and with the Board on that evening and more particularly, to discuss what their organizations were involved in and what possible efforts could be undertaken so that the regional groups and the HNBA could work together. President Carlos Ortiz and other members of the Board had an opportunity to speak both in a formal presentation and informally, specifically about the HNBA's highest priority - lobbying for the appointment of a Hispanic to the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition to the aforementioned, others present included HNBA Past President Mark Gallegos, former Florida Department of Labor Secretary Frank Scruggs, Circuit Court Judge Margarita Esquiroz, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Roberto Martinez, and other notables.

The meeting illustrates the diversity of the HNBA, as well as the impact and reputation it has earned in all parts of the country, including the Southeastern sector of our nation.

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By Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers
Mid-Pacific Regional President

The Mid-Pacific Region has been bustling with activity in an effort to unite the Hispanic communities of

California and Hawaii with the HNBA. We have used the HNBA's efforts regarding Hispanic representation in the judiciary as the focus of our unity effort. We believe these efforts will lead to a long and lasting relationship between the HNBA and the Hispanic community that created it.

The unity efforts in California and Hawaii were done by including the Hispanic bar associations in the creation and compilation of the short list of the Supreme Court Nominees. In addition, local Hispanic bar association leaders have been included in our efforts to endorse for the six openings on the Federal bench, as well as the three openings for U.S. Attorneys.

On February 9, 1993, we met with Senator Dianne Feinstein in her Los Angeles office. There, we alerted Senator Feinstein to the abysmal statistics of Hispanics on the federal bench. In California, despite being 30% of the population, less than 5% of the federal bench are Hispanics.

California boasts of having over 25 potential candidates for the federal bench. We divided the State into three regions to better manage the endorsement process. With the help of (i) a Coalition of Hispanic Bar Association presidents and the SFLRL Judiciary Committee in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, including Norma Garcia (Calif. La Raza Lawyers, Pres.), Jose Alvarez (Alameda County Pres.), Hector Chinchilla (San Francisco Pres.-Elect), Enrique Navarez (San Francisco Pres.), Katherine Lucero (Santa Clara County Pres.), Julio Mateo (San Mateo County Pres.), Petra de Jesus, Chris Morales, Roqelio Ruiz (San Francisco Judiciary Comm.), we considered Northern California candidates; (ii) the Mexican-American Bar Association through the efforts of Martha Romero and Leonard Torres coordinated candidates for Central California candidates, and (iii) Michael Perez on behalf of the California La Raza

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HNBA JUDICIARY COMMITTEE REPORT

**By: Christopher A. Miranda
Chairman, HNBA Judiciary Committee**

While the focus of the HNBA has been in preparing a short list of candidates for the U.S. Supreme Court, the HNBA Judiciary Committee has continued its effort to increase Hispanic representation at all levels within the judiciary. There are approximately 110 vacancies in the federal judiciary. It is the mission of the HNBA to ensure that the Clinton Administration strongly consider Hispanics for those vacancies. The HNBA has focused on those states with vacancies which have significant Hispanic populations. States in which the HNBA focus include New Mexico, Massachusetts, Illinois, California and Texas.

The New Mexico Hispanic Bar invited the HNBA to attend its banquet on December 11, 1992. Before the banquet, the HNBA met informally with Senator Bingaman regarding the vacancy created due to Judge Campos taking senior status. The HNBA shared the podium with Senator Bingaman during the banquet. Twelve individuals have sought HNBA endorsement for this vacancy. The HNBA recently conveyed its endorsees to Senator Bingaman.

The Massachusetts Mexican American Bar Association, along with the HNBA, met with Senator Kennedy, advocating his nomination of a Hispanic to fill one of the three federal court vacancies in Massachusetts. MABA and the HNBA presented to Senator Kennedy endorsee Massachusetts Superior Court Judge Charles Grabau, for his consideration. If Judge Grabau is appointed, he will be the first Latino appointed to Massachusetts' federal bench.

The HNBA, along with Latin American Bar Association, Mexican American Lawyers' Association, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, has chosen to endorse Ruben Castillo, Therese Cesar, and Magistrate Judge Ronald Guzman in Illinois. These local Hispanic bar associations and the HNBA screened a number of Latinos who sought endorsement. These three endorsees were conveyed to Senator Simon during a meeting on January 25, 1993. Again, history would be made if a Hispanic was appointed to the Illinois federal court, for he/she would be the first.

On February 2, 1993, MALDEF, Los Angeles MABA, California La Raza Lawyers, and San Francisco La Raza Lawyers met with Senator Feinstein. Last week Senators Feinstein and Boxer's staffers requested the HNBA endorsees for the California vacancies as soon as possible. The HNBA, along with L.A. MABA, San Francisco La Raza Lawyers and California La Raza in San Diego, completed their evaluations and conveyed their endorsees to Senators Feinstein and Boxer.

Eight vacancies exist within Texas. On March 6-7, the HNBA met with Texas bar leaders to obtain their input regarding those who have sought endorsement. The HNBA recently provided its endorsements to Senator Krueger.

Thank you to the local Hispanic Bar associations who have been responsive to requests for assistance in identifying candidates, and also for their input regarding those seeking HNBA endorsement. Without your assistance, the process cannot succeed. Again, be assured that the HNBA is committed to do whatever is necessary to supplement local bars' efforts to assure that our courts reflect our country's Hispanic population.

UNITY!

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Finally, the actual Board meeting went very well; each of the Governors made their best efforts to present their opinions on different issues, despite their demure and shy personalities! But I will admit that the most exciting (as well as exhausting) aspect of the Board meeting in Miami during January, was the pleasure of taking the group to local hot spots for their taste of Miami. All were delighted to visit Gloria Estefan's restaurant in South Beach, as well as the Italian eatery in Coconut Grove. And I am sure, once many of them got home, the snow flakes which greeted them surely reminded them of the good time they had in Miami during January and the friendships they had strengthened.

National Minority Bar Leaders Unite In Summit To Call for Justice For All Minorities



National Minority Bar Association Leaders Present a United Front

Seated on floor (l. to r.): Pamela Chen, NAPABA and Algenita Scott Davis, NBA Seated in front row (left to right): Betty Lugo, HNBA; William C. Hou, NAPABA President; Carlos G. Ortiz, HNBA President; Tricia A. Tingle, NABA President; Allen J. Webster, Jr., NBA President; Teresa I. Leger, HNBA; Cindy Kagiwada, NAPABA; Andrea Pair Bryant (kneeling), NBA; H. T. Smith (kneeling), NBA. Standing in order of appearance (l. to r.): Freida Wheaton Bondurant, NBA; Barry Brandon, NABA; John Trasviña, HNBA; Inez Alfonzo-Lasso, HNBA; Les Jin, NAPABA; James M. Finley, NBA; Virginia Class-Matthews, HNBA; Susan N. Takemoto, NAPABA; Alberto Caballero, HNBA; Paul Lee, NAPABA; Ray L. Shackelford, NBA; Vivian Hsu, NAPABA; Anju Uchima, NAPABA; Philip G. Hampton, II, NBA; Brian Sun, NAPABA; John Chang, NAPABA; U. Lawrence Boze, NBA; Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, HNBA; Jonny BearCub Stiffarm, NABA; Keith Watters, NBA; Dee Hayashi, NAPABA; Linda Mar Weidman, NAPABA; Major Bobby G. Henry, Jr., NBA; Rachel Patrick, ABA; Mark Lee, NAPABA; Gaye L. Hume, NABA; Larry Vigil, NABA; and Monica Rogers, NAPABA..

Washington, D.C.--The leadership of the four national minority bar associations met to discuss a common agenda focusing on equal opportunities, civil rights, and justice for all minorities. The Summit was the first of its kind, featuring the Boards of Governors of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the Native American Bar Association (NABA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), and the National Bar Association (NBA). Together, the four bar associations represent over 80,000 minority attorneys, judges, law professors and law students in the United States.

At the commencement, Summit leaders expressed great expectations for this historic gathering. HNBA President Carlos Ortiz noted, "This Summit marks the beginning of true unity among the four minority bar associations and a significant beachhead to attack the problem of

bias and prejudice in the legal profession, the judicial system, and our country in general." Allen J. Webster, Jr., NBA President, stated that the Summit was "a great opportunity to demonstrate the strength and determination of our coalition which seeks parity, justice, and freedom for all minorities." William C. Hou, NAPABA President commented, "We have gathered not only to advocate the common professional interests of minority attorneys, but also to promote meaningful dialogue among our communities so that we may live and work together in harmony." Tricia Tingle, NABA President stated, "Our common goal is to utilize the legal skills that we have to bring equality and fairness to our respective communities."

Following is an article summarizing this historic event written by HNBA Vice President and Summit participant, Inez Alfonzo-Lasso.

National Minority Bar Leadership Summit

HNBA Conducts Unprecedented Meeting To Promote Unity

May 14-15, 1993

By: Inez Alfonzo-Lasso - HNBA Vice President



United States Senator Paul Simon (D-Ill.) tell Summit participants at the packed Senate Judiciary Committee hearing room that America should and can have a diverse federal judiciary without sacrificing quality.

A sense of empowerment is the only way to describe last weekend's Minority Bar Leadership Summit. In an unprecedented display of unity and strength, the national boards of directors of all four minority bar associations, The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the National Bar Association (NBA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), and the Native American Bar Association (NABA) convened at a joint meeting in Washington, D.C. to announce to the President and the Nation that the minority communities in American have "A Common Vision".

In the two-day intensive mini-conference, the Hispanic American, African American, Asian Pacific American, and Native American attorneys came together to discuss areas of mutual interest and concern ranging from representation on the U.S. Supreme Court and increasing opportunities for minority attorneys in business Government and on the Bench, to civil rights violations and hate crime statutes. But what this diverse mosaic of articulate and dedicated attorneys came away with was a far cry from what anyone had anticipated.

Too long turned inward, the leadership responded to each other's concerns and issues with genuine respect and wise counsel. And it soon became very clear that, together, we represent a

group of Americans that one day will not be called minority - people of color. Therefore, it also became clear that our need to join hands was no longer a nice, collegial way to spend a weekend but rather a mandate to bring this harmony and unity back to our communities. . .we had discovered a true path to empowerment.

If the commitment to speak with one voice is solidified, no longer will the powerful in this country be able to dismiss the minority leadership as fragmented or isolated self-interest groups but rather, in this Summit, we have demonstrated that we can be a cohesive, united force to be reckoned with, each as concerned with the others' causes as with their own. At the close of the Summit, the following joint resolutions were issued:

1. Urging President Clinton to nominate a minority to the United States Supreme Court;
2. Calling for diversity in the federal and state judiciary and the Department of Justice;
3. Advocating the recruitment, hiring, promotion and retention of minority attorneys in the public and private sectors; and
4. Supporting legislation which would repeal the exemption of the Wards Cove v. Atonio case from the Civil Rights Act of 1991;
5. Seeking adequate funding for the administration of tribal courts.

The HNBA should consider continuation of joint efforts with this new coalition of minority bar associations to be one of its top priorities.



The four minority bar Presidents gather around Ronald A. LeGrand, Director of Minority Affairs and Business Development for Nabisco Foods Group, Inc. who generously sponsored the Summit activities.

HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION'S SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE FIRST HISPANIC AMERICAN SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

We are taking this opportunity to submit a written report to you explaining the selection process that the national Hispanic legal community used in compiling a short list of the best qualified candidates for the present vacancy on the United States Supreme Court. We strongly believe that the process is reliable and worthy of your support. The selection process has been comprehensive, thorough, inclusive, and fair, and carried out with the highest standards of integrity.

To provide you with reasonable assurance that you can rely on what has been done, what follows herein is a chronological summary of the process to date. Our overall plan has essentially been to get the broad-based and unified support of the Hispanic legal community (through state and local Hispanic bar associations) and the Hispanic non-legal community (through the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the largest national non-legal Hispanic organizations).

BACKGROUND

Since July, 1991, HNBA representatives have had meetings with White House Chief of Staff Governor John Sununu, Counsel to the President C. Boyden Gray, Assistant Counsel to the President for judicial appointments Lee Liberman (regularly) and President Bush to discuss federal appointments to the bench generally, and the appointment of a Hispanic to the Supreme Court in particular.

In addition, we have had meetings with various United States Senators and have established good working relationships with Senators Biden, Kennedy, Simon, and Hatch through their staffers.

Throughout 1992, we have also held discussions with state and local Hispanic bar associations, planting the seed for this effort. In May 1992, with the help of Congressman Jose Serrano and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus,

and the support of twenty three state and local Hispanic bar associations, we held a joint press conference in New York to disclose the gross under-representation of Hispanic American judges in the federal and state courts and, we issued nationwide summaries of Hispanic American judges in those courts. Despite seemingly insurmountable odds in a difficult election year, four new federal Hispanic judges were shortly thereafter given hearings by the Senate Judiciary Committee and appointed by the President.

In meetings with then Governor Clinton, U.S. Attorney General William Barr and Hispanic leaders through the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, we continued to raise our concerns about the need for a Hispanic Supreme Court Justice and more appointments to the federal trial and appellate courts generally. In September 1992, at our annual Convention, we intensified our efforts and publicly announced our intentions to aggressively lead the charge nationwide to fill the very next vacancy on the Supreme Court with a Hispanic American.

SELECTION PROCESS

In September 1992, comprehensive efforts were launched by mailing invitation letters and copies of our judicial endorsement policies and procedures and personal data questionnaires to approximately 300 federal and state judges, academicians and prominent attorneys. Those individuals were invited to apply or provide input as to others who might be interested in applying for endorsement on the short list of candidates for the Supreme Court.

The policies and procedures and questionnaires were designed to elicit information about the candidate's legal experience, education, scholarship, Hispanic community involvement, and personal life, among other things. The specific factors considered include such things as integrity and character, legal experience, scholarship and communication skills, judicial

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SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE AT WORK

temperament, judicial courage, stamina, common sense, commitment to equal opportunity and equal justice under law and political viability. It is important to note that Hispanics have not been and will not be endorsed by the HNBA merely because they are Hispanics. Also worth noting is the fact that our Association is bipartisan. Therefore, qualifications and community involvement are what drives endorsements and are determinative, not political affiliation.

Also in September, we met with the Presidents of numerous state and local Hispanic bar associations at our convention to inform them of what we were doing and request their involvement. And in our letter dated September 22, 1992 we wrote the non-legal Hispanic community, (the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda) to do the same.

In October, the nine HNBA Regional Presidents began actively seeking out more candidates in each of their respective regions, in cooperation with local and state Hispanic bar associations.

On November 13, 1992, we met with eight state and local bar associations in New York, from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey (i.e. The Association of Hispanic Judges, Puerto Rican Bar Association, American Society of Dominican Attorneys, Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund, Brooklyn Bar Association's Hispanic Outreach Program, Massachusetts

Association of Hispanic Attorneys, Hispanic Bar Association of Connecticut, and the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey). As we have done consistently throughout the country, we emphasized that it was no longer acceptable for Hispanics to "be pleased if" or "hope that" a Hispanic American is considered.

One example of the many occasions during which we have made public addresses regarding the subject at hand, occurred on November 20, 1992 when we addressed a large gathering of Hispanic and other minority attorneys at Harvard Law School on empowering change in the legal profession through increased representation in the judiciary, with particular emphasis on the Supreme Court.

On December 17, 1992, we met with the Presidential Transition Team for the Justice and Civil Rights Cluster Group in Washington, D.C., as part of a Senior Advisory Council convened to advise the President and the incoming Attorney General on urgent matters. We of course strongly urged the Administration to appoint a Hispanic to the High Court. In December, we also met with the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association in New Mexico.

In early January, 1993, invitations were sent to state and local Hispanic bar associations to provide input into the work of the United States Supreme Court Selection Committee of the HNBA and State and Local Latino Bar Associations ("the Committee"). Invitations were also sent to the major state and local

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Hispanic bar associations in states having the greatest concentrations of Hispanics inviting them to join the Committee and physically take part in its deliberations. The Committee is comprised of the Presidents or Representatives of fifteen state and local Hispanic bar associations and was diverse geographically, ethnically, politically, and by gender.

On January 11, 1993, we wrote the members of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda requesting NHLA's support and endorsement, and that of each individual national Hispanic organization as well. The NHLA is a confederation of 28 Hispanic National Associations along with more than two dozen Latino elected officials and other prominent leaders from across the country that works to achieve unity within the Hispanic leadership to better serve the Hispanic-American community.

On January 15, 1993, we met in Florida with the Cuban American Bar Association, the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association, Dade County Bar Association, Hispanic Bar of Palm Beach County, Hispanic Bar of Central Florida, and the Hispanic Women's Leadership Alliance to emphasize the need for unity in this effort and to request their support and involvement.

On January 22, 1993, we met with and sought the support and endorsement of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda in Washington, D.C. The NHLA Board voted unanimously to endorse the proposition that the next Supreme Court Justice be a Hispanic, and that, in general, there should be parity for Hispanics on the federal bench. The decision to endorse the Hispanic Legal community's short list was deferred until the names on the short list were known. Members of the NHLA submitted names of candidates they would like considered. Also during the month of January, we met with the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association in Colorado and the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys in Massachusetts.

From December, 1992 through February, 1993, we met with Senator Bingaman of New Mexico, Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts,

Senator Simon of Illinois, and Senator Feinstein of California to discuss federal appointments to the bench generally and the Supreme Court in particular. All have asked for our Supreme Court short list.

For two days in Denver, on February 5 and 6, the Committee met and considered approximately 80 candidates. All Committee members executed Confidentiality Agreements promising to refrain from disclosing the names of individuals under consideration until such time as the process has been concluded. All those considered were assured confidentiality. The Committee narrowed the field of candidates to a core list of twenty individuals. Each of those twenty were contacted and asked whether they were ready, willing and able to be further considered and investigated, and go through the entire process up to and including the Senate Judiciary Committee, if possible. For those who agreed, teams of Committee members were assigned to do the investigations and telephone interviews and to report to the full Committee on their results at the next meeting in Dallas on March 6, 1993.

During the next several weeks, detailed investigations were conducted on the candidates. Candidates were closely examined as to their qualifications, personal lives and community involvement. Materials they submitted as well as materials we obtained on our own (including judicial decisions, articles written, speeches made, etc.) were studied. After our investigations were conducted, in depth interviews on various matters including constitutional questions, were had with the candidates as well.

Personal references and non-referred sources were checked, and discrete corroborative inquiries were also performed. Non-Hispanics were also questioned to gage whether the candidates would have mainstream support as well.

Throughout the weeks and months that passed, HNBA Regional Presidents and state and local bar association Presidents or Representatives were corresponded with repeatedly to encourage the submission of more and more candidates.

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On February 23, 1993, we wrote all national non-legal Hispanic organizations to advise them as to where we were in the process and once again request their input and involvement, including the submission of additional names on or before March 3, 1993.

On March 6 and 7, 1993, the Committee met in Dallas and further shortened the core list. Additional investigation was deemed necessary in some cases, and it was agreed that personal interviews would be scheduled for the last and final meeting on March 19 in San Francisco.

On March 8, 1993, we wrote to all members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, state and local Hispanic bar association Presidents and Representatives of all national non-legal Hispanic organizations. We provided them with a status report and requested that they prepare themselves then, to act on the short list within a reasonably short period of time after they receive it.

On March 16, 1993, we submitted a written report to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus explaining the process and requesting their support.

On March 19, 1993, we met in San Francisco, to interview the finalists and compile our short list. Coincidentally, on March 19, 1993, Justice Byron White announced his retirement.

On March 21, 1993 we completed our short list and submitted it to the President. The short bios of the seven individuals endorsed are included herein on pages 14-17.

Between March 21, and April 1, 1993, we planned concurrent press conferences in 12 cities across the nation to announce our short list and explain why it was in all Americans' best interests to have a Hispanic-American Supreme Court Justice.

On April 1, we made personal presentations to, and secured the support of, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Caucus Chairman Jose E. Serrano (D-NY) praised the HNBA for its leadership efforts in "implementing an exhaustive process that has resulted in a short list

of very impressive candidates." Serrano and all Caucus members then sent a joint letter to President Clinton urging the appointment of a Hispanic Justice to fill Justice White's vacancy.

We then held concurrent nationwide press conferences and met with the White House. The White House was very receptive, viewing us as a resource, and commenting favorably on the short list.

CONCLUSION

We have sought the opinions and assistance of local Hispanic attorneys because of their keen familiarity with and knowledge of the candidates after having worked side by side with them, or having appeared before them on many different issues. Because of their familiarity and training in the Law, the HNBA believes that these local attorneys are best suited to help determine which candidates best possess the qualifications and background to be on the short list.

We hope that you share our confidence in these state and local bar associations, and that their combined opinions with those of the HNBA, together with the knowledge and insights gained from our meetings with the White House, U.S. Senators, and many others, have strengthened our process, and have provided the best foundation for ensuring that only the very best would be on a short list that would in turn be enthusiastically supported by the Hispanic non-legal community as well.

As a result of all that has been done, the expectations of Hispanics community's across the nation are very high. We look forward to receiving your critically essential support as well. □

If You are a Lawyer
and are Not a Member of the
Hispanic National Bar Assn.
YOU CAN JOIN NOW
Send application on page 27

HNBA'S Short List of Best Qualified Hispanic American Potential Nominees for the U.S. Supreme Court



Joseph F. Baca
Justice, New Mexico Supreme Court
P.O. Box 848
Santa Fe, NM 8704-0848

Justice Baca was Assistant District Attorney in Santa Fe from 1965 through 1966, and in private practice from 1966 to 1972. He served as a district court judge from 1972 to 1984, and was Chief Judge from 1982-1983. Justice Baca was elected to an eight-year

term as Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court in January 1989.

Justice Baca received his Master of Laws in the Judicial Process in 1992 from the University of Virginia Law School. He received his J.D. in 1964 from George Washington University National Law Center, and a Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1960 from the University of New Mexico.

Fortunato "Pete" Benavides
Former Judge
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
4246 Westlake Drive
Austin, TX 78746

Having served as a trial and appellate court judge for fifteen years, Judge Benavides currently serves as a Visiting Judge on assignment by the Texas Supreme Court. Judge Benavides commenced his legal career as a litigation associate with Rankin, Kern & Martinez in McAllen, Texas (1972-1974). He next was a litigation partner in Cisneros, Brown & Benavides (1974-1976), and he also litigated as a sole practitioner (1977-1980). Judge Benavides served as a Judge on the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court from 1977 to 1979, the 92nd District Court of Hidalgo County from 1981 to 1984, the Thirteenth Court of Appeals from 1984-1991, and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals from 1991 to 1992.

Judge Benavides is active in numerous bar associations, civic organizations, and charitable groups.

Judge Benavides received his J.D. in 1972 from the University of Houston, Bates College of Law. Born February 3, 1947, he is 46 years old.



HNBA's Short List of Best Qualified Hispanic American Potential Nominees for the U.S. Supreme Court



Jose A. Cabranes
Chief Judge
United States District Court
for the District of Connecticut
141 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Judge Cabranes was appointed to the federal bench in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter, at which time he was serving as General Counsel of Yale University. He was the first Puerto Rican appointed to the federal bench in the continental United States. Prior to his appointment, Judge Cabranes practiced law in New York City; taught administrative law, conflict of laws and international law at Rutgers University Law School;

and served as Special Counsel to the Governor of Puerto Rico and as Administrator for the Office of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in Washington, D.C.

Judge Cabranes graduated from the University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England with an M.Litt. in International Law in 1967. He received his J.D. in 1965 from Yale Law School, and an A.B. in 1961 from Columbia University.

Judge Cabranes has been awarded honorary degrees by Colgate University (1988), Trinity College (1990), and the University of New Haven (1990).

Vilma S. Martinez
Partner
Munger, Tolles & Olson
355 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90071-1560

Ms. Martinez has been a litigation partner with Munger, Tolles & Olson since 1982. She commenced her legal career as a Staff Attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (1967-1970), and served as EEO Counsel with the New York State Division of Human Rights from 1970 to 1971. She was a litigation associate with Cahill, Gordon & Reindel from 1971-1973. Ms. Martinez served for a decade as President and General Counsel of MALDEF (1973-1982).

Ms. Martinez served for fifteen years as a member of the University of California Board of Regent (1976-1990). She is currently a member of the boards of Sanwa Bank California, Anheuser-Busch Companies, The Edward W. Hazen Foundation, and the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society.

Ms. Martinez received her law degree in 1967 from Columbia University School of Law. A native of Texas, where she was born on October 17, 1943, she is 49 years old.



HNBA's Short List of Best Qualified Hispanic American Potential Nominees for the U.S. Supreme Court



Daniel C. Morales
Attorney General for the
State of Texas
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711-2548

Mr. Morales began his public service career in 1983 as Assistant District Attorney for Bexar County. In 1985, he was elected to the first of three terms in the Texas House of Representatives, where he served as Chairman of the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and as a member of the powerful Ways & Means Committee. In January 1991, Mr. Morales became the 48th Attorney General of Texas.

Mr. Morales received his B.A. degree (cum laude) from Trinity University in 1978, and his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1981.

Cruz Reynoso
Professor of Law
University of California at Los Angeles
School of Law
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1476

Justice Reynoso currently is a Professor of Law at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, and Special Counsel with Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler. He was in private practice for a decade in El Centro, California (1959 to 1968). He was the director of California rural Legal Assistance from 1969 to 1972, and a Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico School of Law from 1972 to 1976. Justice Reynoso was an Associate Justice of the California Third District Court of Appeals from 1976 to 1982, and an associate Justice on the California Supreme Court from 1982 to 1987.

Among his appointments from President Carter, Justice Reynoso served as a U.S. Delegate to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and he was a member of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy. He currently serves as a member of the boards of the Council of Foundations, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and CHILDREN NOW.



HNBA's Short List of Best Qualified Hispanic American Potential Nominees for the U.S. Supreme Court



Ricardo M. Urbina
Judge, Superior Court of the
District of Columbia
Washington, D.C. 20001

Judge Urbina began his legal career by serving in the Washington, D.C. Public Defender Service from 1970 to 1972. He then engaged in private practice from 1972 to 1981, Judge Urbina was a Professor of Law of Torts, Constitutional Criminal Procedure, and Criminal Justice Clinic; and was the Director of Criminal Justice Programs, at Howard University Law School. Since 1981, Judge Urbina has been an Associate Judge of the

Washington, D.C. Superior Court. He presided as Chief Administrative Judge of the Family Division from 1985 to 1988.

Judge Urbina received his B.A. degree in 1967 from Georgetown University, and his J.D. degree in 1970 from Georgetown University Law Center

President's Message - *Continued from page 3*

cultural ties to our community would bring to the nation's highest court a perspective and sensitivity not present there today. The unique perspective of our multi-racial community would not only contribute to the development of the law and the administration of justice, but would also serve to build bridges between all sectors of American society.

The appointment of a highly qualified Hispanic American would be in the best interest of all Americans especially in these troubled times. A Hispanic American on the Court would serve to promote respect for law and order by reducing the risks that the Court's decisions will be regarded as tainted by prejudice and inequity. A Hispanic American Justice would also serve as a positive role model for our nation's youth.

The HNBA, working closely with fifteen other state and local Hispanic bar associations from across the country, and after intensive evaluations, has identified seven distinguished Hispanic Americans who meet the high stan-

dards that are appropriate for this appointment; all are coalition builders. This list—which includes two former state supreme court judges, one state high court judge, one state trial judge, a state attorney general, a chief federal district court judge and a practitioner in a major urban law firm—has been submitted to President Clinton for his consideration. We hope that he will make history when he acts on this appointment and that he will recognize in this tangible way the place of our people in the public affairs of the United States. In doing so, he will not only recognize merit, but also enhance the legitimacy of the Court and of our legal system. As the President himself said with strong conviction before the November 3 election, “the emergence of a judiciary that is less reflective of our diverse society than at any time in recent memory . . . runs the risk of losing its legitimacy in the eyes of many Americans”.

1 Linda P. Campbell and Michael Tackett, "Not Interested In Court Seat, Cuomo Says", Chicago Tribune, April 8, 1993, p.2.

2 Bill Clinton, "Judiciary Suffers Racial, Sexual Lack of Balance", The National Law Journal, November 2, 1992, p.15.

"OPENING THE COURTHOUSE DOOR"

"Breaking the Barrier-A-Challenge to Change"

**By Frank Torres
Justice of the Supreme Court
of the State of New York**

Opening the courthouse door to allow qualified minority lawyers of the State of New York an opportunity to become members of the judiciary, especially in New York City, is an idea whose time has come.

Never in the history of our state have there been so many minority persons, for example, African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans, and Native Americans, who practice law as members of the Bar, and function in different capacities open to the legal profession. Never in the history of New York State have there been so many minority lawyers employed by Legal Aid, district attorney's offices, legal services, city, state, and federal administrative agencies, corporation and corporate counsels' offices as members of law firms and in the field of legal education and law enforcement as there are today.

In this last decade of this century we are blessed with the greatest presence of minority lawyers ever to join the legal profession. This positive addition reflects the continuing increasing success of minority individuals who have earned the necessary academic credentials, have passed the Bar, and are now entering the American mainstream.

Minority lawyers are proving themselves capable of meeting the challenges of legal practice. They are products of our American colleges and law schools. They have attended public and private schools in different states and possessions of the United States. In many instances they represent admirable individual achievement. They have been born and raised in poverty, have been the first of their family to receive a higher education, and have overcome discouraging deprivation on the road to a professional career. Understandably, many have empathy for those they see struggling to cope with life in today's America. Many pursue public interest law because they want to help their fellow citizens. Measuring their achieve-

ment from their point of origin and considering the social impediments and deprivation they have overcome, minority lawyers represent great individual human success. Through an awareness gained from personal life experience, they bring to their chosen field of law understanding and empathy of the human condition today.

Is it possible that there may be among such minority lawyers some who will have the qualifications for appointment or designation to judicial office? Is it possible that among such minority lawyers there may be some that have the character, temperament, professional aptitude and experience to be considered "well qualified" for appointment to judicial office? One would think so. Unfortunately, members of the screening committees see what they are conditioned to see, and minority persons are viewed through subjective characterizations or cultural stereotypes. The prevailing bias will define minority persons and their qualifications or cultural stereotypes. The prevailing bias will define minority persons and their qualifications: Asian-Americans are not to be trusted, African-Americans and women inferior, and women do not have capacity equal to men. Until recently, we in American society have accepted the opinion that Native-Americans, African-Americans, and women lacked the character, temperament, professional aptitude, and experience to be free, own property, vote, ride in the front of the bus, marry a person of choice, use the same toilet, and hold public office.

These views characterized minorities in the past. These views still exist in the screening committees that measure persons seeking positions in the judiciary. We have a contemporary bias that minority lawyers are not qualified for the judiciary.

That minority lawyers have traditionally experienced indifference and rejection at the hands of screening committees is evidenced by the composition of our courts, a reality of exclusion that speaks for itself. American history has been characterized by racism and discrimination. The composition of our present-day

Continued on next page

Continues from previous page

bench is a heritage of that past. Contemporary screening committees are perpetuating that past into the present and future.

After overcoming great difficulties to qualify for entry, minority lawyers find that the courthouse door to the judiciary is still closed to them by screening committees. The composition of our judiciary today reads like a barometer of exclusion from every court and at almost every level. The most glaring examples are our Family and Criminal Courts where the presence of minority judges is minuscule, notwithstanding the composition of the population dealt with by those courts. Similarly, the Supreme Court, the Court of Claims, and Appellate levels have an equally dismal presence of minority judges. The

small numbers of minority persons presiding in our courts today readily reveal a status of exclusion. How judges are selected and how our judicial system is administered is a process under our control. We cannot change the past, but we can change a process that perpetuates the past and fails to make our courts representative today.

If it is acknowledged that our judiciary is not now representative of the composition of our population, that the talents of qualified minority lawyers are being ignored, and that the screening committees are part of the problem, then the process has to be changed and the screening committees changed in order to arrive at a representative judiciary.

Hispanic Supreme Court Justice Supporters



State and local Hispanic Bar Association representatives at work



Congressional Hispanic Caucus
Congressman Jose E. Serrano (D-N.Y.) Chair



HNBA Leads Nationwide Efforts To Secure Hispanic American Supreme Court Justice.- (Cont'd from page 1).

At the Washington, D.C. press conference, Ortiz stated "the appointment of a Hispanic American to the United States Supreme Court will strengthen the integrity, and credibility of our legal system, by reducing the risk that judicial decisions may be regarded as tainted by prejudice, inequity and indifference." Ortiz added that, "many citizens have little or no confidence in the fairness of our judicial system. This is especially true of minorities who believe that the system disregards their unique knowledge, experiences and insights that would otherwise contribute positively to the development of the Law and the administration of justice.

Addressing the Phoenix media were Michael Sillyman, President-Elect of Los Abogados and Arthur G. Garcia, Northwest Regional President of the HNBA. Sillyman stated "The fact that the judiciary may often be perceived as being biased against minorities should be of serious concern to all Americans, since the very perception of bias breeds disrespect, indifference, and contempt for law and order." Garcia added that, "An important step in promoting justice for Hispanics is the appointment of a Hispanic Justice to the Supreme Court."

In Dallas, Texas, HNBA Regional President Adelfa Callejo noted that "Americans" of Hispanic descent include people of all backgrounds. Their multi racial and cultural diversity enables them to play a singular role that can help bring Blacks, Whites, Protestants, Jews and Catholics closer together. A Supreme Court Justice of Hispanic American descent would be a valuable role model for our young people as well."

In response to President Clinton's request to the Hispanic National Bar Association for a short list of the best qualified nominees, the HNBA and 15 other state and local bar associations formed the national committee that identified and evaluated potential nominees. The Committee, which was diverse geographically, ethnically, politically and by gender, considered a pool of more than 80 candidates for the seat.

The state and local Hispanic bar associations comprising the Committee were as follows:

California La Raza Lawyers Assoc.; Colorado Hispanic Bar Assoc.; El Paso Mexican American Bar Assoc.; Hispanic Bar Assoc. of New Jersey; Hispanic Bar Assoc. of Pennsylvania; Hispanic Bar Assoc. of Washington,

D.C.; Latin American Bar Assoc. of Illinois; Los Abogados of Arizona; Los Angeles Mexican American Bar Assoc.; Massachusetts Assoc. of Hispanic Attorneys; Mexican American Bar Assoc. of Texas; Mexican American Lawyers Assoc. of Illinois; New Mexico Hispanic Bar Assoc.; Puerto Rican Bar Assoc. of New York; and the San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association.

The Committee screened potential nominees by a variety of criteria, including their legal and professional accomplishments and experience, education, integrity and character, scholarship, judicial philosophy and temperament, and commitment to equal opportunity and justice under the Law.

In urging President Clinton's serious consideration of the seven endorsees, Ortiz stated, "We respectfully submit that Hispanic Americans have for too long awaited a place at our government's table of affairs." Ortiz urged the President "to keep his campaign promise to make the Supreme Court and the federal bench generally "look like America." Ortiz further urged the President to "enhance the legitimacy of the Court and of the legal system by nominating and appointing a Hispanic American to fill the impending Supreme Court vacancy." □

UNITY!

(Cont'd from page 6.)

Lawyer and San Diego La Raza Lawyers spearheaded efforts for Southern California. THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!

In March, 1993, the HNBA sponsored a unity conference in San Francisco with Senators from the following groups who attended this unity meeting: San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association; Alameda County La Raza Lawyers Association; San Mateo County La Raza Lawyers Association; Santa Clara County La Raza Lawyers Association; Los Angeles Mexican-American Bar Association; and the California La Raza Lawyers Association. We believe an unprecedented unified front by Hispanic leaders in California will be the basis for a well-attended 1993 convention and the strengthening of the HNBA.

We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco!

National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

January 22, 1993
NHLA Board Meeting



Carlos G. Ortiz and Christopher Miranda, proposing Hispanic American Supreme Court Justice Resolution at January 22, 1993, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda Board Meeting.



MISSION

- To serve as the national voice for the concerns and opinions of Hispanics in the legal profession.
- To promote the recruitment and retention of Hispanics in law schools and provide them with financial assistance through scholarships.
- To develop mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of information among Hispanics involved in all segments of the legal profession.
- To conduct conventions and seminars in order to provide continuing legal education for attorneys and foster the exchange of ideas and information among its members.
- To provide testimony before Congress, state legislatures and executive agencies on issues of concern to Hispanics.
- To work with other bar associations, governmental agencies and community groups to achieve greater involvement and understanding of the American legal system by the national Hispanic community.

1993 CONVENTION - SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR COLLEAGUES

"We are pleased to invite you to the XVIII Annual Convention of the Hispanic National Bar Association which brings us together in the State in which the organization was founded. The theme of the Convention "El Mosaico de las Americas: Unidos en Marcha Hacia el Futuro", coincides with a year marked by unprecedented unity between the HNBA and a diversity of Hispanic bar associations throughout the country. Among other successes, the HNBA worked extensively this year with fifteen state and local Hispanic bar associations to create a short list of the best qualified Hispanic candidates for the U.S. Supreme Court. The 1993 Convention is being co-hosted for the first time, by three major Hispanic bar associations, the San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association, the California La Raza Bar Association, and the Mexican American Bar Association of Los Angeles County.

We look forward to welcoming you to San Francisco in September.

Carlos G. Ortiz
HNBA President

Mary T. Hernandez
1993 Convention Chair



CALIFORNIA BAR LEADERS PREPARE FOR 1993 CONVENTION

Convention Co-Chairs (L. to R.) Mary Hernandez, 1993 Convention Chair; Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, Elena Asturias, and Norma Garcia, Co-Chairs, presenting the Convention Theme Poster "El Mosaico de las Americas".

NOTICE OF HNBA ANNUAL ELECTIONS

September 25, 1993

To Be Eligible To Vote
You Must Pay Your
Membership Dues
Before July 15, 1993

HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

The HNBA is the incorporated, non-profit, national association representing approximately 20,000 Hispanic attorneys, judges, law professors and law students committed to increasing representation of Hispanics in all sectors of the legal profession and serving as a legal voice for Hispanics.

Founded in California in 1972, as the La Raza National Lawyers Association, the HNBA has grown to represent over forty affiliate organizations across the country. In 1980 the name was changed to the Hispanic national Bar Association. Legal education, through the Council on Legal Opportunity, and civil rights have been central issues to the Association from the beginning. Judicial selection and political representation continue as priorities for the HNBA.

Since 1975, the HNBA has held national conventions with educational seminars and social functions attracting thousands of Hispanics, members of the legal profession, prominent speakers and guests from the social, political, and economic life of North, Central, and South America.

Through the sponsorship of these conventions, our related 501 (c)(3) charitable arm, The Hispanic National Bar Fund, Inc., has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships annually to deserving law students and significantly contributed to the development of our nation's future leaders.

**HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
ANNOUNCES
THE NEW
NATIONAL HISPANIC ATTORNEY DIRECTORY**



Locating fellow Hispanic attorneys will soon be much easier with the new National Hispanic Attorney Directory currently in the works.

This comprehensive volume, scheduled for release in March, 1994, will be the most up to date and complete reference of thousands of Hispanic attorneys ever compiled! The information listed will include current occupation, business address and phone number, membership information, plus residential address and phone. All this valuable data will be bound into an impressive, library-quality edition.

The Hispanic National Bar Association has contracted the accomplished Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, Inc. to produce our new Directory. Harris will soon begin researching and compiling the data to be printed in the Directory by conducting research and contacting each attorney. (If you prefer not to be listed in the Directory, please contact Headquarters in writing as soon as possible.)

The new National Hispanic Attorney Directory will soon make networking as easy as opening a book. The Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc. (PRLDEF), the Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc. (MALDEF), and the nation's many state and local Hispanic bar associations will join forces to make this directory a great resource for all to use and enjoy. Look for more details on this exciting project in future issues of NOTICIAS.

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Languages spoken: _____

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